

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. 1. A tray for taking a dental impression comprising:
 2. a frame having a generally "U"-shaped portion, wherein the bottom part of the "U"-shaped portion comprises a posterior bar;
 4. a membrane supported on and integral with said frame and spanning said "U"-shaped portion;
 6. a means for imparting a rigidity to the tray which is additive to the rigidity imparted by an impression material to be used to take the impression, whereby such additive rigidity primarily takes effect after the patient has bitten into the impression material, wherein such means for imparting rigidity to the tray comprises an object engaged with the frame in the tray's posterior region.
1. 2. The tray of Claim 1 wherein the object comprises an immobilizing agent other than the impression material to be used to take the impression.
1. 3. The tray of Claim 2 wherein the immobilizing agent is applied to the frame of the tray and is suitably positioned and composition so that when cured, such immobilizing agent would impede the frame's alteration of shape.

1 4. The tray of Claim 3 wherein the frame further comprises a joint in its posterior and
2 wherein the immobilizing agent is suitably positioned and compositioned to impede the relative
3 movement of the sections of the frame bridged by the joint when cured.

1 5. The tray of claim 2 wherein the frame further comprises a tube affixed to the frame or a
2 channel within the frame that contains the immobilizing agent.

1 6. The tray of claim 5 wherein the tube or channel contains internal mixing baffles through
2 which the immobilizing agent can be passed.

1 7. The tray of claim 2 wherein the frame further comprises a fiber optic glass.

1 8. The tray of Claim 2 wherein the immobilizing agent comprises a material that is readily
2 deformable when uncured but difficult to deform when cured.

1 9. The tray of Claim 2 wherein the immobilizing agent comprises an adhesive.

1 10. The tray of Claim 2 wherein the immobilizing agent comprises a composite.

1 11. The tray of Claim 2 wherein the immobilizing agent comprises an acrylic.

1 12. The tray of Claim 2 wherein the immobilizing agent comprises a plastic.

1 13. The tray of Claim 12 wherein the plastic comprises a heated thermoplastic which will
2 harden as it cools from mouth-tolerable temperatures to body temperature.

1 14. The tray of Claim 12 wherein the object comprises a thermosetting plastic.

1 15. The tray of Claim 1 wherein the frame further comprises a means for affixing the frame
2 to an implant transfer post.

1 16. The tray of Claim 15 wherein the buccal wall is affixed to the implant transfer post by
2 a support member which connects the implant transfer post to the buccal wall of the frame.

1 17. The tray of Claim 2 wherein the material comprising the frame is a color that reflects
2 curing light.

1 18. A tray for taking a dental impression comprising:
2 a frame having a generally "U"-shaped portion;
3 a membrane supported on and integral with said frame and spanning said "U"-shaped
4 portion; and
5 a curable or self-curing immobilizing agent that is uncured, wherein such immobilizing
6 agent is not the impression material to be used to take the impression.

- 1 19. A tray for taking a dental impression comprising:
- 2 a frame comprising a generally "U"-shaped portion, wherein the bottom part of the "U"-
- 3 shaped portion comprises a posterior bar;
- 4 a membrane supported on and integral with said frame and spanning said "U"-shaped
- 5 portion; and
- 6 an uncured composite applied to the frame's posterior bar.